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L E T T E R  
TO THE HONOURABLE THE  
CORN COMMITTEE,  
ON THE  
IMPORTATION OF ROUGH RICE,  
AS A  
SUPPLEMENT TO WHEAT FLOUR.

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*Nunquam ita quisquam, bene subducta ratione, ad vitam fuit  
Quin res ætas, usus, semper aliquid apportet novi.  
Aliquid moneat;*

TER. ADELPH.

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BY THE REV. MR. LORIMER,

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LONDON  
PRINTED FOR T. BECKET, PALL MALL.  
1796.

[ Price ONE SHILLING. ]

J. E. T. R.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE  
CORN COMMITTEE

IMPORTATION OF ROUGH  
WHEAT

SUPPLEMENT TO WHEAT FLOUR



BY THE REV. H. L. L. L.

LONDON

PRINTED FOR T. BAKER, PAUL M.

[ Price One Guinea ]



TO THE  
HONOURABLE MEMBERS  
OF THE  
CORN COMMITTEE,  
&c.

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GENTLEMEN,

AS people little known and of little weight cannot presume to trouble the great Officers of State by private letters, which at the same time may never come to their hands; if their Secretaries be allowed to open such communications as are written by persons unknown to them; I presume therefore in this public manner to address you, because I know not the names nor even the number of the Honourable Persons in the Committee, and most humbly beg leave to suggest to your consideration the utility of importing (in the present scarcity of corn) a large quantity of rough rice from the Carolinas and Georgia, to be stored up by  
B government

government, in order to be sold to the poor at a reduced price; which precaution may have some effect in the mean time to keep the price of wheat from rising to great exorbitance; such a provision by administration will be as popular as it will be useful.

By rough rice is meant rice in its natural state, with its husk, or integument on it, which would keep it perfectly sound and sweet in well constructed granaries for a great number of years, being put therein free from any mustiness or bad flavour which often injures uncased rice, which is too open and porous for the damp or effluvia of the sea or bulge water of the ship, in so long a voyage across the Atlantick ocean.

This grain, ground in our mills at home and bolted, would yield a finer and sweeter flour than wheat, and would meliorate every kind of flour it is mixed with, for I mean it to be mixed in various proportions with wheat or barley, and ground together for the better mixing thereof and to prevent in some measure the flying from the hardness of  
the



the rice in grinding ; but rice may be ground alone notwithstanding its flintiness by properly damping it, which the millers will soon know. I foresaw this would be an objection to its grinding, namely its hardness ; but I am this moment happy to learn that the millers know how to damp very hard flinty grain, and that they now do so with Barbary wheat, which is very hard. The weight of rice will be alleviated by the mixture of wheat or barley, but there can be little doubt that the rice flour would make the finest of bread by itself alone, for all kinds of meal or vegetable substances are fermentable by the application of a proper leaven or yeast to them.

That every person may at once be convinced of the superior sweetness of rice and wheat flour mixed—buy a pound or less of the sweetest rice groats, which boil well in water till it is very tender and soft ; drain the water from it, then mix it with good wheat flour till it makes a proper dough, and with a rolling pin make thin cakes of it, which put before a strong clear fire or

an oaken or any smooth board, tilted upon its edge inclining a little backward till the side of the cake is brown; then turn the other side to the fire till it is brown also; it is then finished, the outsides are crisp, but the inside is soft, which easily opens with a knife. Then good butter is put in the soft middle of the cake; which being closed together again, makes very good sweet breakfast or tea bread. It may be done in a Dutch oven. I often have it. In Carolina it is called *jonny* or *journey cake*, for its being expeditiously done, hot and hot for travellers or others. They make it there mixt with *bomminy*, which is maize or indian corn meal boiled thick, but people here may improve the cake in what manner they please.

I have often wondered that rough rice was not imported here in point of luxury, for its superior sweetness even to make groats of it as well as flour by our own mills; now let our necessity have the honour of importing that which European luxury never thought of,

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The bran, pollen and gurgions of this grain will be profitable to the miller; the coarsest part whereof is an excellent fattening food for horses and black cattle, mixed with chaff, to make it less heavy; for without this, or hay or straw cut very small to mix with it, the farina would be too heavy and rich by itself for them to eat much of: and for the feed of pigs and poultry, the pollen made up into dough with water or skimmed milk, sweet or sour, will soon fatten them, and make their flesh more short, tender, white and delicious.

It is to be hoped that rice in its case or husk will come moderately cheap, and that the planters will be glad to sell it so, for the severest labour that the negroe has in Carolina is the unhusking and polishing of rice in large wooden mortars with ponderous double-headed pestles. The task is, so many mortars so many hours, I have forgot the number, and it being often night work too, it is allowed by the masters to be the most toilsome task of the poor slave,  
to

to be eased of which would be a benefit to the master as well as to him, who would be put to easier and more profitable work, and thereby the bondman's longer strength and life be ensured, and the master be enabled to plant more rice, if the northern part of Europe should adopt the rough rice to be polished or ground in their own unceasing water mills, which causes no hard labour to any body. But it must be owned that some planters have machinery for the polishing of rice, yet it is imagined not to be general; however that may be, yet as this paper will go to the Carolinas and Georgia, I would wish that every master's commiseration was excited in order to ease the slave from any too severe labour, therefore I would address every individual planter in the following very beautiful obsecration of Virgil, but in accommodation solely to Heaven's monarchy.

Quod te per superos, & conscia numina veri  
 Per si qua est, quæ restat adhuc mortalibus usquam  
 Intemerata fides, oro, miserere laborum  
 Tantorum miserere animi non digna ferentis.

Nevertheless



Nevertheless I chearfully give this testimony to the honour and humanity of Carolina, that in the many years I was there I never knew of any shocking severity used on the persons of slaves, but in two instances only, and which was as much condemned by the planters there as it could possibly be here or in any part of the world.

It has been suggested to me, that from the prejudice of custom the rice planters will not give up their old way for the sake of the bran and farina from the mortars for the feed of their creatures; to this it is answered, they are men of too good sense not to see their interest if the northern parts of Europe should choose to have their rice with its coat of defence and preservation on it for the purposes above set forth and another to be hereafter mentioned, by which more rice would be consumed in this part of the world, and consequently a greater demand for it from the rice planters and merchants, which would extend both their agriculture and trade. Besides there is no solidity in the objection; it is  
set

set aside at once by this truth, that the planters can always keep a reserve of rough rice for the creatures they choose to feed with it, for its husk and sharp points cause a coarser mastication, which is better for the maws and crops of their creatures than the pollen or farina before mentioned.

It has been objected, why have not the planters and merchants (who know their own interest best) adopted this plan long ago? The answer is, there was no demand from hence for it in that fashion, and a few years back very little rice was used here; the planters were therefore obliged to uncase it to make it sell for the uses we put it to. But now, agreeable to the motto in the title page, the necessity of circumstances, age and experience, discover new simple modes and uses of things long neglected, though plain and level to every one's capacity, but overlooked only because they are easy: yet the plainest truths, the most simple mechanism, and the easiest experiments, are always the best.—Some may object even out of petulance



tulance, because they did not think of the thing themselves; all that shall be said to them is, in Terence Adelph.

*Homine imperito nunquam quidquam injustius,  
Qui, nisi quod ipse facit, nihil rectum putat.*

It has been gravely objected to me, that this plan will not be resorted to, because, on enquiry, the Corn Committee will learn that uncased rice keeps sound and sweet here for some years. That it will not be absolutely useless in a cold climate for two or perhaps three years, may be admitted; but surely it loses not a little of its sweetness, soundness and substance in that time; and I am well informed, that in the West Indies it loses its soundness and sweetness, and becomes unpleasant to eat, in less than six months, and overrun with weevils—But can such objectors make the Honourable and learned Corn Committee unlearn all their natural philosophy? The Committee know well, that when the husk is knocked off from any grain, with its fine inmost skin and part of its meal too, it is thereby deprived at once of its vegetative

and germinating life and power, and cannot be fit for long keeping ; because it is so roughly wounded and flayed that it is in a state of death, like an animal flayed in as rough a manner ; the last will corrupt with the greatest celerity, but the first will waste in its substance after one year, become musty, and then be not very fit for eating ; for to every attentive observer it will be evident, that the upper mealy convolutions or strata of uncafed rice, are loosened, and so fall off and moulder away daily, besides being preyed upon by mites and weevils. However I am so confident of the wisdom and good judgment of the Honourable Committee, that I am certain they never will fastidiously reject a modest hint from any man, but will consider it attentively, and be ready to adopt this maxim if the hint be profitable :

*Abs quivis homine cum opus est, beneficium accipere gaudeas.*

T. ADELPH.

Why the Carolina merchants in London have not addressed the Corn Committee for the importation of rough rice, the best reason



reason I can suppose is, that it would look like self interest in them so to do; but this objection cannot affect me, having no particular interest to serve, but am purely led to this proposal for a supply of any good grain, such as rice or indian corn, in our present necessity and scarcity of wheat; though I gratefully wish every good to the people of Carolina for their very kind attention to me and my spiritual services during the almost fifteen years I was among them.

Nunquam ego illis possum gratiam referre, ut meriti sunt de me.

PLAUT. MOR.

It is presumed the Honourable Corn Committee will order a small trial of rice and wheat flour ground together to be baked, and then if upon a fair trial it fails, I must bear all the blame; if it succeeds well, I claim no praise; I meant only what I think a plain duty for me to do on plain principles of reason; nay, from his known regard to every practicable improvement, it is even presumed that were his gracious Majesty to hear of this, he would order a

trial to be made for his own satisfaction : and if there be a real scarcity of wheat, the fact will be a sufficient apology for the proposal arising out of necessity, which explores both near and remote ways of relief; for want causes enquiry, diligence begets, and use or practice nourishes and improves, every kind of art and invention—so saith the poet Claudian.

*Provocet ut segnes animos, rerumq. remotas,  
Ingeniosa, vias paulatim explorat, egestas,  
Utq. artes pariat solertia, nutriet usus.*

Enough is said to the Honourable Committee on this simple plan of encreasing the quantity and meliorating the quality of bread in the present scarcity of wheat; and it affords me satisfaction to think, that their own and many other ladies will at once, on reading this, try the cake. It remains only to give some miscellaneous hints on the saving of corn, on horses, on distilling rice, on magazines, and the conservation of corn. As there has not been much straw or hay used in this extraordinary open and spring-like winter, abounding with grass, there



there must be a great quantity of both unconsumed; and from so large a stock, there may easily be some saving of corn in the feeding of horses. Suppose ~~a~~ third part; would that be too much taken from any horse but the very hard working ones?

Doubtless government will always think it a right point, to encourage the breeding of the strongest hunters, as fittest for cavalry, coaches, and gentlemen's riding with the most ease and expedition; but an overstock of such horses at four, five, six, seven, or eight years old, would cause an excessive consumption of corn, before they can be exported any where; therefore it is humbly suggested to administration, when such a trade is allowed or opened again, to enact, after a sufficient time for the selling off the present over stock of all ages, that all horses thereafter for exportation shall not exceed four years of age; by which means the country would be always eased of an overstock, and so prevent  
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the too great consumption of oats ; for it is supposed colts are not much fed with corn. Besides this mode of saving corn for bread, a sufficient tax may be laid and levied on horses at the time of their exportation, which the seller will lay on the price of his horses. On this occasion a very common remark cannot be omitted, that a great cause of the scarcity of corn is too little tilth and too large grass farms for the rearing of these very horses that must have no small portion of the tilth produce too : if this is true, it is a great absurdity, which many smaller farms for tillage would rectify, and at the same time cause more poultry, eggs, hogs, pigs, &c. to be reared and brought to market.

There is one purpose for which rough rice may be imported to Europe which I before said I would mention, and it cannot be well omitted, as the distillers will naturally think of it, as a succedaneum for barley to distil spirits from ; for it is evident that rough rice will, by  
the



the same process, come or germinate, and every way malt as easily as barley, and produce perhaps a better spirit. Besides the distillers use a portion of unmalted corn, such as wheat, rye, (and so they may rough rice) along with their barley malt. There is no doubt that the Chinese make a wine of rice of an amber colour, tasting like Spanish wine; and Chambers's Cyclopædia says, that in some parts of Europe a strong brandy is drawn from rice. This is only hinted, that government may judge whether to allow or prohibit distilling from rice; my plan is merely for the increase and melioration of meal for bread, on purpose to prevent a greater exorbitance in the price of wheat if possible.

If in plentiful seasons the laying up corn in magazines should be thought a good measure to have recourse to, certainly it would be expedient that at least a part thereof should be of that grain that keeps best. Rice seems to have the fairest claim to that property; and

and that it is more conservable than any other kind of European grain will be easily perceived by every attentive examiner of its compact form and constitution, and its hard flinty nature, with the close adhesion and strength of its case or husk, which therefore must be, for durability, preferable to wheat, which, though less flinty, has a more slender capsula or case than rice, which has a rough strong coat of armour for defence, whilst wheat is clothed as it were with a thin silken garment that cannot so well ward off or repel external injuries from small insects or the frequent damps of a humid atmosphere.

The Romans, you well know, laid up corn in magazines to serve for times of scarcity. Julius Cæsar at one time gave ten modii of corn per man to the people of Rome. Augustus gave sometimes monthly distributions of corn, and would often let the people have it at a very low price or none at all. Upon one occasion of pinching scarcity, he turned out of the  
city



city all foreigners and unnecessary slaves, gladiators, &c. and when plenty was restored, he wrote that he was strongly impelled to abolish the practice of allowing corn to the people, at the publick expence, because they trusted so much to it that they neglected their tillage; but he did not continue in this mind, because he was certain it would be received on some occasions to please the people: but he so managed that affair ever after that he had no less regard to the husbandmen and traders abroad than to the people of the city.

Another emperor used all means possible to bring corn and provisions to the city even in the winter season. He proposed to the merchants a sure and certain gain and promised to indemnify them for any loss of their corn or ships by tempests at sea; and to such as built provision ships he granted great privileges.

Domitian, on a scarcity of corn, but  
D plenty

plenty of wine, supposed tillage neglected by too much application to the culture of vines, and ordered the half of the vines to be cut down, but he did not finish the project.

The Honourable and learned Committee will find a synopsis of the management of the ancients with respect to corn in Justus Lipsius his Elect. 1 cap. 8. His Opera Omnia, in 4 vol. folio, are in the publick, and in some private libraries. I found him quoted by a scholiast on the word *Tessera* or corn ticket, who says, Just. Lips. Elect. 1 cap. 8. *dicit, multa de frumentationis antiquitate ac frumenti distributione*; first by the *Ædiles*, then by Corn Commis-saries corn was distributed to the people, who got tickets made of wood or lead for going to and receiving from the publick granaries wheat every month. An ancient glossary also on the corn ticket, is here translated: he says, Those slaves who were made Roman citizens, upon their manumission, and being enrolled, received  
corn



corn from the public granaries, and indeed gratis, agreeable to a law made by Publius Clodius, Tribune of the people, Piso and Gabinius, consuls, as is noted by Pædianus in Tully's Oration on Piso, viz. that the Corn Commissary, year by year, collected a great power of corn and distributed it to those poor persons who presented the tessera or ticket before given to them, testifying they were Roman citizens, in which was inscribed the name of the man and his tribe. v. g. Publius Velina, i. e. of the tribe Velina.

There can be little or no reason for hoarding up corn for a very great number of years; for in good years of plenty, fresh supplies for keeping can be had, when some of the oldest may be sold off; yet it is wonderful how long it will keep; for after the Emperor Charles V. was miserably obliged to raise the siege of Metz in the end of the year 1552, the Duke of Espernon amassed a vast magazine of corn in the citadel, which was preserved in good plight to

to the year 1707, when Louis XIV. with his retinue passing that way, eat bread baked thereof. Its preserving 154 years is a wonderful thing, for which, to save the trouble of turning over histories, see Chambers's Cyclopædia on the word CORN, where there are other instances with the methods, used for the conservation thereof.

Upon the whole, government will judge in the present state of things whether or not it would be found policy to build strong well constructed granaries for corn on rising grounds near the Thames, with fortifications round them and near to barracks, for a sufficient guard to prevent any attack by fire or otherwise; the chief ones not to be many miles west or east from London. For the very great antiquity and utility of corn magazines see Genesis, chap xli.

To conclude, I make no apology to the Honourable and learned Committee for quoting a little Latin; but I beg pardon  
from



from all that have not learned Latin, though the substance is in the English, assuring them that it is not from pedantry that I did so, but merely to catch the attention of many that might not otherwise read so plain a thing.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most Obedient,

And most Humble Servant,

C. L.

Shooter's Hill, Kent,

Feb. 9, 1796.

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... have not ...  
... the English ...  
... them ...  
I did not merely ...  
of many that ...  
plain a thing.



I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most Obedient

And most humble servant,

C. L.

Shewell Hill, Kent  
Feb. 9. 1796.



